

Position Description

1715 Hour AmeriCorps Member

Location: Milltown, Frenchtown, Council Grove & Fish Creek State Parks



Term of service: January 16, 2024 – November 15, 2024

Service schedule: Member will serve a minimum of 1,715 hours over a 44-week term, averaging 41 hours per week with 80 hours of “Time Not Scheduled to Serve” to be used as sick, vacation, or other personal leave.

Position Summary:

The Hellgate District stretches along 75 miles of the Clark Fork River from Milltown State Park east of Missoula to St. Regis in Mineral County. The District includes four state parks (Milltown, Council Grove, Frenchtown Pond, and Fish Creek State), 18 Fishing Access Sites, including the Alberton Gorge, and the 40,000-acre Fish Creek Wildlife Management Area.

Milltown State Park, one of the youngest parks in the Montana State Park system, is still a work in progress with recent additions such as the Bonner Learning Park. With the expanding park, there are opportunities for the AmeriCorps member to help with the development of interpretive resources and programming, volunteer mobilization, community outreach and land improvement. Milltown is a popular river launching site for visitors wanting to get on the rivers in the summer. In July and August, the park experiences a “tube hatch” and sees roughly 50,000 in visitation. The AmeriCorps member would work alongside other staff to provide an on-site presence. The member would engage in community outreach and interpretive activities during the “tube hatch”.

Frenchtown Pond State Park is a prominent, high use park for the communities of Frenchtown, Huson, and Nine Mile, as well as the greater Missoula area. This park has seen progress in its Junior Ranger program and interpretive events thanks to previous AmeriCorps members. The AmeriCorps member would expand these events to an already interested audience to create stewards of the site. Frenchtown Pond State Parks hosts a yearly event called The Big Paddle. This is one of the largest events for the park and it celebrates everything paddling like kayaking and boating. The AmeriCorps member would help with event planning and ensuring a successful event.

Council Grove State Park is a cultural site within the Montana state park system. It is the signing place of the Hellgate Treaty in 1855 between the United States Government and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of Montana. The park is also situated in the greater Clark Fork River-Grass Valley Important Bird Area (IBA), an Audubon Society designation of key habitats identified for bird conservation. This AmeriCorps member



would play a key role in community outreach and building better stewardship among frequent visitors. The member would also help with volunteer activities, land improvement and interpretive resources.

There are opportunities for the AmeriCorps member to help with the development of interpretive resources and programming, community outreach and land improvement at the Fishing Access Sites in the district. Additionally, the Hellgate District manages a whitewater section of the Clark Fork River, the Alberton Gorge. The Alberton Gorge sees several commercial outfitters and many private parties every season. This AmeriCorps member would help with community outreach and educating the public on safe river recreation practices and keeping the resource healthy.

This position is based in Missoula, Montana, the state's second largest urban area and home to the University of Montana. Missoula has a lively cultural scene and great recreational access to nearby public lands and rivers.

Member will contribute to the following program goals:

- Improve park land
- Expand educational and interpretive programs
- Increase volunteer capacity*
- Enhance outreach and awareness of state parks
- Participate in service activities including National Days of Service**
- Respond to disasters, when called upon to do so by the program
- Support other Montana State Parks events as needed

Specific Position Responsibilities:

- Improve park land
 - Work with park staff to develop and organize region wide service days that include trail maintenance and/or construction, weed control, habitat enhancement, and stream bank stabilization.
 - Assist with annual volunteer land improvement events, such as Earth Day tree planting at Milltown State Park.
 - Assist with beginning land improvement efforts at Council Grove State Park including native grassland restoration, trail delineation, and designated off-leash dog area.
- Expand educational and interpretive programs
 - Coordinate, develop and lead educational/ interpretive programs.
 - Facilitate school programs and field trips to many of the state park sites.
 - Develop and implement programs as part of existing Junior Ranger Program that runs in the summer primarily at Frenchtown Pond State Park.
 - Assist with the development and design of informational pamphlets, brochures, educational materials, and teaching resources.
- Increase volunteer capacity

- Organize volunteer events, including Earth Day, National Trails Day, National Public Lands Day, involving resource management and interpretation.
- Collaborate with local schools and non-profit groups holding events in the parks, where a public service project is typically part of the events.
- Assist with developing and implementing a Bark Ranger program at Council Grove State Park.
- Enhance outreach and awareness of state parks
 - Conduct targeted outreach to community, civic, school and youth groups.
 - Work with other AmeriCorps members in the region to highlight upcoming park events, programs and activities at the many farmers markets and festivals across west central Montana.
 - Organize park events such as The Big Paddle, Solstice Saturday, Labor Day and more.
 - Enhance the park's social media presence to encourage and sustain participation in park activities.

Minimum Requirements:

- Over 18 with a high school diploma or GED; college degree or equivalent work experience preferred
- A United States citizen, United States National, or legal permanent resident alien
- Demonstrated leadership skills
- Ability to take initiative, handle multiple projects, track details essential to project completion, analyze information, and meet deadlines
- Strong ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing with diverse groups of people
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Basic computer proficiency
- Passion for the outdoors and enthusiasm for enhancing Montana's state parks
- A driver's license and personal means of transportation within the state of Montana
- Must pass the requirements of the National Service Criminal History Check

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks AmeriCorps 2024 Required Trainings and Events (subject to change):

- January 16: First Day of Service
- January 22-25: Member Orientation; Lubrecht Experimental Forest
- March 4-8: Certified Interpretive Guide Training; Lubrecht Experimental Forest
- March 13-15: 19th Annual Serve Montana Symposium; Helena
- June 10-14: All Member Gathering; Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park
- July 19-20: Bannack Days; Bannack State Park
- August 31-September 1: Day of Honor; Chief Plenty Coups State Park
- November 14-15: Close of Service; Helena

Physical and Environmental Demands:

- Work is performed in both an indoor and outdoor environment.
- Frequently works in adverse outdoor conditions including temperature extremes, snow and rain, dust, and mosquito infested areas.
- Works with public and may inform public of site rules and regulations.
- May be required to lift over 25lbs across rugged terrain.
- The position may require some travel. The incumbent will be required to work odd hours, weekends, and holidays.

Benefits:

- Living allowance of \$444.00/week (taxed) with a \$300.00/month housing stipend
- An AmeriCorps Education Award of \$6,895 upon successful completion of service. This award can be used to pay education costs at qualified institutions of higher education, for educational training and resources, or to repay qualified student loans. Members aged 55 and over may transfer the education award to a child, grandchild or foster child.
- Eligible for deferment on qualified student loans
- Guaranteed health benefits and childcare assistance if qualified
- Experience and training working in the fields of outdoor recreation, parks management, interpretive services, education, community outreach, and volunteer management
- Opportunity to live, work and be part of the team amid the natural wonders and cultural heritage of Montana State Parks

To Apply:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks AmeriCorps only accepts applications through the my.americorps.gov portal. To apply, you can follow the link [HERE](#) to our application within my.americorps.gov. Please note, there is only one application for all of our 1715-hour positions, placement preference will be assessed during the interview process.

Application Deadline:

Applications are due by December 8, 2023.

* Volunteer activity facilitated by AmeriCorps members supports the management and operation of State Parks. These activities do not include any prohibited or unallowable activities as outlined in AmeriCorps regulations.

**Service activities will center around the preceding program goals as well as provide unique opportunities for members to engage in service to non-profit community organizations that provide support to those in need, including victims of national disasters, individuals and families in poverty, veterans, homeless animals, and other groups. Service projects will take place on and around designated National Days of Service as well as other AmeriCorps organized events, such as member trainings. Service activities will not include any prohibited or unallowable activities as outlined in AmeriCorps regulations.

The Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks AmeriCorps Program, as administered by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, shall provide equal access to opportunities provided by the Program and shall not discriminate against any person because of race, creed, color, religion, sex,

national origin, age, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Minority candidates are encouraged to apply. Reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified individuals with known disabilities unless doing so would result in an undue hardship. The accommodation must be essential for the Member to perform his/her service successfully. Funds for reasonable accommodations are available for use by members with disabilities who have been offered a position with an AmeriCorps Program and require an accommodation to fulfill the essential functions of their service.